THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARISELJA): (a) to (e) Centre for Public Interest Litigaton, a Non-Governmental Organisation, has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of India alleging irregularities in sanctioning of loans etc. The matter is sub-judice.

Rise in Urban Unemployment

†2159. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that urban unemployment has grown steadily inspite for launching Swama Jayanti Urban Employment scheme, for the last few years;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to create more employment opportunities;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to meet these challenges keeping in view the unemployment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) As per employment and unemployment rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), the estimated number of unemployed has increased from 20.13 million in 1994-99 to 26.58 million in 1999-2000. Tenth Five Year Plan envisages creation of 50 million employment opportunities. To create employment potential, the Tenth Five Year Plan has identified the labour intensive sector and sub-sectors for development *viz.* agriculture, including social forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, horticulture and related areas and small and medium industries, construction, tourism information technology, financial sector, education and health.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation it already implementing a Centrally sponsored, employment oriented, Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, through States/Union Territories, with effect from 1.12.1997 with a view to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have studied

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

upto Ninth standard and, secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the State.

Low cost housing to middle class and poor people

2160. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to chalk out any action plan for providing low cost housing for middle class and poor people by bringing new innovative technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government's recent decision of 100 per cent FDI in construction sector would benefit for low-cost housing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Building Materials Technologies Promotion Council, (BMTPC) an autonomous organization has been set up under the administrative control of this Ministry for a comprehensive and integrated approach towards development, promotion and application of conventional and innovative housing and construction technologies and building materials in the country. Some of the major initiatives to popularize and promote low cost housing are given below:

(i) Incorporation of low cost building technologies into the specifications of Central Public Works Department and State Housing and Building agencies and development of standards through Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to cover cost effective materials and construction technologies.

(ii) Strengthening of National Network of Building Centres for demonstration and extension of cost effective technologies and training of artisans in innovative low cost techniques at local levels. All materials and components produced at building Centres have been exempted by Government from levy of any excise duty.